

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO
1138-EP

PATENT
U.S. 09/822,052

Remarks/ Arguments

In response to the Office Action mailed June 3, 2004, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner allow the remaining Claims to pass to issue.

Claims 1 – 6 and 16 - 17 stand rejected, Claims 10 -17 are allowed, and Claims 7 and 18 – 20 stand objected-to. Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to include the features of former dependent Claim 7, such that Claims 1 – 6 should now be in condition for allowance. Similarly independent Claim 16 has been amended to include the features of former dependent Claim 18, and therefore Claims 16 – 17 and 19-20 should now also be allowable. Claims 7 and 18 have been cancelled.

Applicants therefore now ask that remaining Claims 1 – 6, 7 – 17, and 19 - 20 be passed to issue.

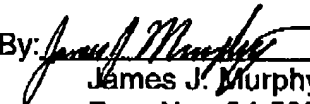
No new matter has been added; the claims have been merely amended to more particularly claim the subject matter Applicants believe is inventive. Applicants respectfully submit that the Claims as they now stand are patentably distinct over the art cited during the prosecution thereof.

With the addition of no new claims, no additional filing fees are due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number 20-0821 of Thompson & Knight LLP.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning this paper or the present application in general, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (214) 969 - 1749.

Respectfully submitted,

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